

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6489
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 0352

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PORG, SY
SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF ABDULLAH AL-KHANI FOR ASIAN GROUP SEAT
AT SUB-COMMITTEE FOR GRANTING PRIVILEGES AND PROTECTING MINORITIES

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SENT DIPLOMATIC NOTE DATED
DEC 28, 1977, AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SYRIAN ARAB
REPUBLIC PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN DAMASCUS, AND HAS THE HONOR TO
INFORM THE EMBASSY THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
HAS DECIDED TO NOMINATE MR. ABDULLAH AL-KHANI, ASSISTANT FOREIGN
MINISTER, TO OCCUPY ONE OF THE SEATS DESIGNATED FOR ASIAN
GROUP AT THE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR GRANTING PRIVILEGES AND PRO-
TECTING MINORITIES, DURING THE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD BY
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE IN GENEVA ON FEBRUARY 6, 1978.

THE WIDE CULTURE THAT MR. KHANI HAS, HIS PERSONAL
CHARACTERISTICS, HIS WIDE EXPERIENCE IN POLITICAL WORK AND
SOCIAL AND HUMAN ISSUES, HIS KNOWLEDGE OF MANY LANGUAGES
AS SHOWN IN THE ATTACHED BIO-DATA ENTITLE HIM TO OCCUPY
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THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED COMMITTEE.

THE MINISTRY POINTS TO THE SPECIAL CONCERN AND INTER-
EST EXPRESSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
FOR SUPPORT OF THE SYRIAN CANDIDATE, AND AVAILS THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO RENEW TO THE ESTEEMED EMBASSY THE ASSURANCES OF ITS
HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

ENCLOSURE: BIO-DATA OF MR. KHANI

END QUOTE.

2. WE ARE POUCHING COPY OF NOTE AND BIO-DATA.

3. I URGE USG SUPPORT FOR KHANI'S CANDIDACY. HE IS A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT NON-POLEMICAL PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT WHO IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO USG. I BELIEVE THAT US SUPPORT FOR KHANI WILL BE RECEIVED AS POSITIVE INDICATION OF US DESIRE TO WORK EFFECTIVELY WITH SYRIA ON A PRACTICAL LEVEL ON MULTI-LATERAL QUESTIONS.

4. PLEASE INFORM THIS EMBASSY OF US POSITION RE KHANI'S CANDIDACY SO THAT I MAY CONVEY THIS INFORMATION TO THE MFA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ASIAN STATES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO AGREE ON THE CANDIDATES FOR THE FIVE AVAILABLE SEATS AND THAT ABOUT TEN ASIAN CANDIDATES ARE CURRENTLY COMPETING.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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